

29 January 1964

MEMO FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Gazetteers

1. Since 1946 the main support of the BGN has come from sources other than the Department of the Interior. Army carried financial burden in 1946 and 1947 and shared expenses with CIA in 1948, 1952, and 1953. Although CIA has carried major portion of the expenses, Interior has received some assistance from the Navy (1950 and 1953) and the Air Force to a nominal degree through the present. This occurred despite the fact that law passed in 1947 gave place name responsibility to the Department of the Interior.

2. In September 1957, the IG and General Counsel concluded that Agency support of this program should be reviewed periodically in order that we may properly assess our position with the Bureau of the Budget and Congress. General Counsel said that permanent assumption by CIA of the Board's function was open to serious question.

3. In July 1956, Department of Interior proposed that BGN be transferred to CIA. This was based on Interior's lack of interest/requirement for foreign geographic names. The DD/I response in conversation with Assistant Secretary Wormser, was that such an assumption of function is not within our assigned statutory and NSC functions and that the issue of geographic names involved several departments and agencies outside of Interior and CIA. [REDACTED] recommended that Bureau of Budget "seize itself of the problem." A staff study re the Interior proposal signed by Capt. Knowles and Mr. Guthe said "it is difficult to see how CIA could accept as a matter of common concern responsibilities which transcend the intelligence field." Also, "it has been our position to fulfill this responsibility only to the point where a self-supporting BGN public gazetteer program can eventually take over and service both government and public needs."

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4. The Gazetteers, now on a maintenance basis, quite properly must be regarded as a service of common concern. Their publication is unrelated to the substance of the NIS Program. Should further publication of gazetteers be considered vital to the intelligence community, and this would need to be demonstrated, consideration should be given to other funding arrangements. If the primary consumer interest is the Department of Defense, perhaps it should assume the cost. If the interest is more widespread the cost could be apportioned accordingly. The Army Map Service must be considered an appropriate locus of this responsibility.

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AMS follows BGN foreign name policy and is the largest user of foreign names in its production of maps. To the extent that community-wide requirements exist, they could be channeled to AMS for incorporation and thus avoid inclusion of solely DoD operational requirements. Also, the Department of State has a primary responsibility in matters relating to foreign areas and has maintained an interest in the formulation of foreign geographic name policy. Public sale copies of the gazetteers are made available through the GPO; possibly this should be the exclusive means of dissemination. The least appropriate means of funding is assignment of gazetteer costs to OBI.

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